

nonprofit organizations, State and local governments, colleges, universities, interstate agencies, and individuals to carry out this section for use in—

“(A) monitoring the water quality and living resources of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem;

“(B) researching the effects of natural and human-induced environmental changes on the water quality and living resources of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem;

“(C) developing and executing cooperative strategies that address the water quality and living resource needs in the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem;

“(D) developing and implementing locally based protection and restoration programs or projects within a watershed that complement those strategies, including the creation, restoration, protection, or enhancement of habitat associated with the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem; and

“(E) eliminating or reducing nonpoint sources that discharge pollutants that contaminate the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, including activities to eliminate leaking septic systems and construct connections to local sewage systems.

“(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of any project or activity carried out using a grant provided under this section shall not exceed 75 percent, as determined by the Administrator.

“(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Administrative costs in the form of salaries, overhead, or indirect costs for services provided and charged against programs or projects carried out using funds made available through a grant under this subsection shall not exceed 15 percent of the amount of the grant.

“(e) REPORTS.—

“(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than December 30, 2009, and annually thereafter, the Director of the Program Office shall submit to the Administrator and make available to the public a report that describes—

“(A) each project and activity funded under this section during the previous fiscal year;

“(B) the goals and objectives of those projects and activities; and

“(C) the net benefits of projects and activities funded under this section during previous fiscal years.

“(2) ASSESSMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 30, 2011, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator, in coordination with the Gulf of Mexico Executive Council, shall complete an assessment, and submit to Congress a comprehensive report on the performance, of the Program.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The assessment and report described in subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) assess the overall state of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem;

“(ii) compare the current state of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem with a baseline assessment;

“(iii) include specific measures to assess any improvements in water quality and living resources of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem;

“(iv) assess the effectiveness of the Program management strategies being implemented, and the extent to which the priority needs of the region are being met through that implementation; and

“(v) make recommendations for the improved management of the Program, including strengthening strategies being implemented or adopting improved strategies.

“(f) BUDGET ITEM.—The Administrator, in the annual submission to Congress of the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall include a funding line item request for the Program Office as a separate budget line item.

“(g) LIMITATION ON REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section establishes any new legal or regulatory authority of the Administrator other than the authority to provide grants in accordance with this section.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, to remain available until expended—

“(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(2) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

“(3) \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2014.”.

SA 4299. Mr. INOUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4899, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 41, line 14, insert before the colon the following: “or may be retained in the ‘Construction, Major Projects’ account and used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for such major medical facility projects (as defined under section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code) that have been authorized by law as the Secretary considers appropriate”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 27, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. in room 328A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 27, 2010, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 27, 2010.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Building a

Secure Future for Multiemployer Pension Plans” on May 27, 2010. The hearing will commence at 2 p.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on May 27, 2010, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 27, 2010.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 27, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on May 27, 2010, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “The United/Continental Airlines Merger: How Will Consumers Fare?”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF ANTITRUST CRIMINAL PENALTY ENHANCEMENT AND REFORM ACT OF 2004

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5330, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5330) to amend the Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act of 2004 to extend the operation of such Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate today will extend the Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act of 2004, ACPERA, for an additional 10 years. This legislation ensures that the Justice Department will have the tools it